WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An information processing apparatus for demultiplexing and decoding a bitstream which contains one or a plurality of encoded object data, and management information for managing the encoded object data, and reproducing one or a plurality of decoded object data, comprising:

extraction means for extracting, from the management information, time limit information which pertains to a time limit set for the one or plurality of object data; and

control means for controlling a reproduction process of the one or plurality of object data on the basis of the time limit information.

2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the bitstream is an MPEG-4 bitstream, and the management information is IPMP information appended to the bitstream.

3.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the time limit information includes at least a time limit and a control method of the reproduction process.

4.   The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control means comprises acquisition means for acquiring time period information for the one or plurality of object data, and controls the reproduction process of

the one or plurality of object data in accordance with
the time information and the time limit information.

5.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the
time limit information is a total of browsing, display,
or reproduction times since the first browsing, display,
or reproduction time of contents of a bitstream of the
object data.

6.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the
time limit information is a predetermined time period
since the first browsing, display, or reproduction time
of contents of a bitstream of the object data.

7.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the
time limit information is a specific time.

8.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said
acquisition means acquires a time as the time period
information from a timepiece that provides a standard
time via a network.

9.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said
acquisition means acquires a time as the time period
information from an internal timepiece of an external
computer which does not allow tampering.

10.   The apparatus according to claim 4, further
comprising measurement means for measuring time, and
wherein said acquisition means acquires the time from
said measurement means.

11.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said
control means checks based on the time period

information and the time limit information if a time
limit of object data of interest has expired, and
controls at least one of input, decoding, and
reproduction of the object data of interest in

5 accordance with the control method of the reproduction
process, when the time limit has expired.

12. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
control means updates the time limit information in
accordance with reproduction of the object data.

10 13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
control means updates the time limit information as new
time limit information by counting an elapsed time
during browsing, display, or reproduction of the object
data, and subtracting the counted elapsed time from the

15 time limit information.

14. An information processing method for
demultiplexing and decoding a bitstream which contains
one or a plurality of encoded object data, and
management information for managing the encoded object

20 data, and reproducing one or a plurality of decoded
object data, comprising:

    the extraction step of extracting, from the
management information, time limit information which
pertains to a time limit set for the one or plurality

25 of object data; and

the control step of controlling a reproduction process of the one or plurality of object data on the basis of the time limit information.

15.   The method according to claim 14, wherein the bitstream is an MPEG-4 bitstream, and the management information is IPMP information appended to the bitstream.

16.   The method according to claim 14, wherein the time limit information includes at least a time limit and a control method of the reproduction process.

17.   The method according to claim 16, wherein the control step comprises the acquisition step of acquiring time period information for the one or plurality of object data, and controls the reproduction process of the one or plurality of object data in accordance with the time information and the time limit information.

18.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the time limit information is a total of browsing, display, or reproduction times since the first browsing, display, or reproduction time of contents of a bitstream of the object data.

19.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the time limit information is a predetermined time period since the first browsing, display, or reproduction time of contents of a bitstream of the object data.

20.　　The method according to claim 17, wherein the time limit information is a specific time.

21.　　The method according to claim 17, wherein the acquisition step includes the step of acquiring a time as the time period information from a timepiece that provides a standard time via a network.

22.　　The method according to claim 17, wherein the acquisition step includes the step of acquiring a time as the time period information from an internal timepiece of an external computer which does not allow tampering.

23.　　The method according to claim 17, further comprising the measurement step of measuring time, and wherein the acquisition step includes the step of acquiring the time from the measurement step.

24.　　The method according to claim 17, wherein the control step includes the step of checking based on the time period information and the time limit information if a time limit of object data of interest has expired, and controlling at least one of input, decoding, and reproduction of the object data of interest in accordance with the control method of the reproduction process, when the time limit has expired.

25.　　The method according to claim 14, wherein the control step includes the step of updating the time limit information in accordance with reproduction of the object data.

26.   The method according to claim 25, wherein the control step includes the step of updating the time limit information as new time limit information by counting an elapsed time during browsing, display, or reproduction of the object data, and subtracting the counted elapsed time from the time limit information.

27.   A computer readable storage medium which stores a program code of an information processing method for demultiplexing and decoding a bitstream which contains one or a plurality of encoded object data, and management information for managing the encoded object data, and reproducing one or a plurality of decoded object data, comprising:

        a code of the extraction step of extracting, from the management information, time limit information which pertains to a time limit set for the one or plurality of object data; and

        a code of the control step of controlling a reproduction process of the one or plurality of object data on the basis of the time limit information.

28.   A program for implementing an information processing method, comprising the steps of:

        inputting a bitstream which contains one or a plurality of encoded object data, and management information for managing the object data;

        demultiplexing the bitstream into object data;

extracting, from the management information, time
limit information which pertains to a time limit set
for the one or plurality of object data; and

controlling a reproduction process of the
5   demultiplexed object data on the basis of the extracted
time limit information.